

Increasing the Visibility of Digital Newspapers Using Wikipedia

Presentation for MARAC, Fall 2014

October 18, 2014

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Historic Maryland Newspapers Project



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National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP)



Humanities

Chronicling America

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

VOL. 01

HTTP://CHRONICLINGAMERICA.LOC.GOV

NO.001

EXTRA! EXTRA!

HISTORIC AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS NOW AVAILABLE

Turning Points in History

The theme for National History Day for the 2012-2013 school year is *Turning Points in History*. The dictionary defines "turning points" as a point at which a decisive change takes place. So a turning point in history is more than just an important event that happened a long time ago. It is an idea, event, or action that directly, and sometimes indirectly, caused change. This change could be social or cultural, affecting a society's way of thinking or way of acting. It could be political, leading to a new legislation or to a new government taking charge. It could be economic, affecting how goods are produced, bought, and sold, or how much or how little a society has to spend on such items. A turning point's consequences may be positive or negative, depending on the topic and its impact in different ways. A turning point can even cause all of those changes and more.

Turning points do not just happen all by themselves—there are always factors involving time, place, and

people that influence the causes and effects. How did people at the time think about what was happening? It is important to examine the historical context of the time to understand the "big picture." Turning points in history always have at least two sides or opposing perspectives. Part of being a thorough researcher is looking at a topic from all angles to see the whole story. But how to do it? By using *Chronicling America*! Historic newspapers are excellent sources for examining history. So go to <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> for your historical newspaper needs.

ABOUT CHRONICLING AMERICA

The *Chronicling America* website provides free access to over 5 million pages of select, digitized historic newspapers published between 1836 and 1922. *Chronicling America* offers a unique window on America's diverse history and brings to life the people, events, and perspectives of communities across the United States during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Supported jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress, this rich digital resource is developed and

permanently maintained at the Library of Congress. *Chronicling America* currently has digitized newspapers from 28 states and the District of Columbia, with new content added regularly, including newspapers published in foreign languages starting with Spanish and French. The National Endowment for the Humanities will eventually fund the contribution of digitized historic newspapers from libraries and archives in every U.S. state and territory.



Teachers Take Note

Historic newspapers—treasure troves of fascinating information, valuable historical context, and rich primary source material—are the perfect opportunity for teachers to engage students in the past. *Chronicling America* is a boon for primary source research skills such as gathering and evaluating information, textual analysis, comparison and contrast, detecting bias, critical thinking, and the use of technology.

EDSITEment, NEH's digital outreach to K-12 educators, has a dedicated page on its website with introductory videos, lesson plans, and other features about how to use *Chronicling America* for NHD projects.

Find this free resource at <http://edsitement.neh.gov/feature/chronicling-america> and follow EDSITEment on Facebook and Twitter.

Picture credit: Russell Lee, Victor Kasha and one of his children reading a newspaper, Butte, Montana, 1942. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C. Reproduction No. LC-USW5-009704-D

NHD Students Take Note

Chronicling America can help you develop your research skills using online sources.

Using the local and regional newspapers in *Chronicling America* will help you find and appreciate the range of different perspectives on national issues that are sometimes lost in the textbook narrative of history.

And you might even win a prize at National History Day!

For information on selecting a historical topic, visit: <http://www.loc.gov/r/r/news/pics/topics.html>

New NHD Special Prize

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) will offer a special prize to be awarded to an outstanding entry in any NHD category in both junior and senior divisions that utilizes the newspaper resources that are available on the *Chronicling America* Historic American Newspaper website.

NEH will award one cash prize of \$1,000 in each of the two divisions (Junior and Senior). Every entry using *Chronicling America* will receive acknowledgment. <http://www.nhd.org/SpecialPrizeInfo.htm>

NHD NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Find out more about National History Day at www.nhd.org



- Joint effort by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress (LC) to digitize historic newspapers from every U.S. state and territory
- Digitizes newspapers published between 1836 and 1922
- Newspapers from the NDNP are publically available via [Chronicling America](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)

<http://nhdarchives.pbworks.com/w/page/43662719/Newspapers>



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About The Scranton tribune. (Scranton, Pa.) 1891-1910

Scranton, Pa. (1891-1910)

[Browse Issues](#) | [About](#) | [Libraries that Have It](#) | [MARC Record](#)

Title:

The Scranton tribune. : (Scranton, Pa.) 1891-1910

Place of publication:

Scranton, Pa.

Geographic coverage:

- Scranton, Lackawanna, Pennsylvania | View more titles from this: [City](#) [County](#) [State](#)

Publisher:

Tribune Pub. Co.

Dates of publication:

1891-1910

Description:

- Vol. 1, no. 1 (June 20, 1891)- ; -v. 75, no. 25 (Jan. 29, 1910).

Frequency:

Daily (except Sun.)

Language:

- English

Subjects:

- Scranton (Pa.)--Newspapers.

Notes:

- Archived issues are available in digital format as part of the Library of Congress Chronicling America online collection.
- Editor: Claude G. Whetstone.
- Merged with: Scranton Republican (Scranton, Pa. : 1877 : Daily), to form: Tribune-Republican (Scranton, Pa.). Cf. Salisbury, R. Pa. newspapers.
- Sunday ed: Scrantonian.

LCCN:

sn 84026355

OCLC:

10437632




The Scranton Tribune

When the [Scranton Tribune](#) first rolled off the presses on the morning of June 20, 1891, three other daily broadsheets already served the city. The *Tribune* was established as a competitor to the [Scranton Republican](#), which had a record of harassing its political opponents, including William Connell, a local coal operator with a desire to run for elected office. To counter the influence of the *Republican*, Connell secured the backing of several prominent city residents, purchased a used press, and set about creating his own alternative to the *Republican*. Four pages long, eight columns wide, and with a price of two cents, the *Scranton Tribune* featured news, including national and international feeds from the Associated Press, opinion, and plenty of advertisements from local dealers, but no photography. It did not publish on Sundays.

The *Tribune* prided itself on its readership being both educated and well-to-do, and in both editorials as well as in a self-congratulatory tenth anniversary publication, the paper claimed to espouse

The Scranton tribune. January 1, 1894, Image 1

Browse:

 [Calendar View](#)

[All front pages](#)

[First Issue](#) | [Last Issue](#)

Screenshot of *Chronicling America*,
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>



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The Scranton
tribune. January 1, 1894.
Image 1

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Wikipedia Research Project

- Sparked by incorrect information in articles related to Maryland newspapers and related figures
- Fueled by budget surplus and the support of LC and NEH
- Project designed with input from colleagues with Wikipedia expertise
- Resulted in a half-time Wikipedian-in-Residence position to complete the summer project




Wikipedian-in-Residence,
Donald Taylor



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linkypedia

*linkypedia helps you **explore** how your web content is used on wikipedia, **extract** crowd-sourced information about your web resources, and **connect** with wikipedians who are using your stuff. More about the rationale for linkypedia can be found [here](#). *

recently found: [Talk:Turrbal](#) referencing [National Library of Australia](#)



National Library of Australia (126,099)



DNB, Katalog der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek (92,884)



bioguide.congress.gov (29,361)



Natural History Museum (27,022)



WorldCat.org: The World's Largest Library Catalog (25,740)

Australia Trove (24,555)



Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (19,569)



OCLC Research Linked Authority File (2.0) (16,023)

American Memory from the Library of Congress (12,966)



Papers Past (10,076)



HathiTrust Digital Library (7,752)

<http://linkypedia.inkdroid.org/>



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June 21 Data Crawl



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

- Revealed 5,126 links in Wikipedia to *Chronicling America*
- Links appeared across 1,777 Wikipedia pages



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Survey of NDNP Awardees

- Survey completed by 19 awardees
 - 2 states have tried editing Wikipedia, 3 plan to try in the future, and 15 said they might
- Why haven't you tried it yet?
 - For 50% of respondents, it hadn't occurred to them
 - Need to know what to do
 - Need proof of payoff

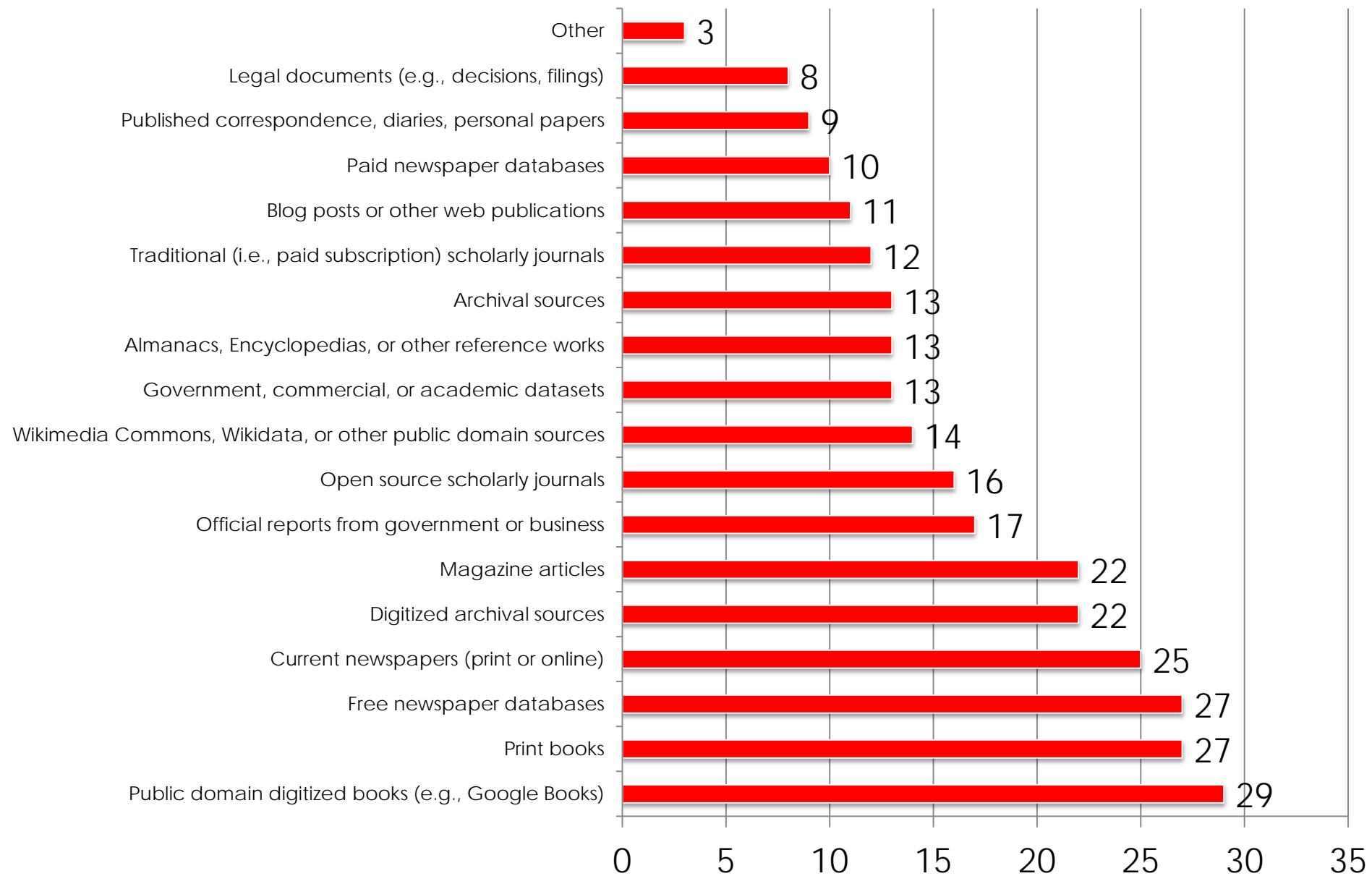


Survey of Wikipedians

- About 60% self-identify as having subject expertise to contribute to Wikipedia
- 60% also said that their contributions to Wikipedia were part of a larger project or goal
 - Doing research for a book or thesis
 - Improve writing and research skills
 - Learning for learning's sake
 - Altruistic reasons ("add to the world's body of knowledge")



Types of Materials Cited by Surveyed Wikipedians



Using *Chronicling America*

- 55% found the site through search engine results
- Over 50% said that *Chronicling America* is just as good, if not better, than other information sources
- 21% used the site without difficulty
- Others reported
 - Slow load times
 - Not a wide enough selection of newspapers
 - Small text and thumbnails for search results
 - Not enough ability to narrow searches
 - An unintuitive or clunky interface



Suggestions for *Chronicling America*

- Citation generator in the *Chronicling America* interface
- Refined search abilities and improved indexing for more accurate searches
- The ability to search at the article level
- The option to download JPEGs
- Keep adding more content!



Outreach and Inreach

- Formed a relationship with Wikimedia DC
- Hosted a public edit-a-thon
- Continuing to hold staff edit-a-thons
- Plans to host more public edit-a-thons



Potential Next Steps

- Create Wikipedia guides for NDNP awardees
- Create and maintain a WikiProject for historic newspapers
- Software development
- Measure impact



Bibliography

- Linkypedia
 - Home: <http://linkypedia.inkdroid.org/>
 - *Chronicling America* on Linkypedia: <http://linkypedia.inkdroid.org/websites/4/>
 - Source code on GitHub: <https://github.com/edsu/linkypedia>
- Wikipedia tools
 - External Links Search: <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:LinkSearch>
 - Special Export Utility: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Export>
- Wikimedia DC: <http://wikimediadc.org/wiki/Home>
- Other tools
 - narabot on GitHub: <https://github.com/Dominic-MP/narabot>
 - FindDPLA: <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Wikipedia:TWL/FindDPLA&tour=finddpla>



Project Information

- National Endowment for the Humanities
 - National Digital Newspaper Program, <http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/national-digital-newspaper-program>
- Library of Congress
 - *Chronicling America*, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
 - National Digital Newspaper Program, <http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/>
- Historic Maryland Newspapers Project at UMD Libraries
 - Project website, <http://digital.lib.umd.edu/newspapers>
 - Blogs
 - DigiStew, Division of Digital Systems and Stewardship, <http://dssumd.wordpress.com/>
 - Special Collections, <http://hornbakelibrary.wordpress.com/>
 - Edit-a-thon
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/DC/Chronicling_America
 - <https://webmeeting.umd.edu/p37wtrvy3iw/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>
 - [Category:National Trust Library Historic Postcard Collection](#)



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